



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Wesley Bruce, Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Biology I Passing Scores

DATE: September 26, 2007

Indiana's Core 40 Biology I Assessment will complete the science tests required by NCLB. Under **IC 20-32-5-21** the State Board of Education can establish Core 40 assessments.

IC 20-32-5-21
National or international assessments

Sec. 21. (a) The state board may require schools to participate in national or international assessments.

(b) The state board may establish an assessment to be administered at the conclusion of each Core 40 course in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. However, participation in a Core 40 assessment established under this subsection must be voluntary on the part of a school corporation...

The Biology I assessment must go through the same "peer review" process as all other NCLB tests so we have followed all the same procedures in developing the test and establishing passing scores as were used with all other NCLB tests.

Both Indiana's Education Roundtable and the State Board of Education have responsibilities for setting ISTEP+ passing scores:

IC 20-19-4-10
Review and recommendation of academic standards and ISTEP program

Sec. 10. The roundtable shall review and recommend to the state board for the state board's approval the following:

- (1) The academic standards under IC 20-31-3, IC 20-32-4, IC 20-32-5, and IC 20-32-6 for all grade levels from kindergarten through grade 12.
- (2) The content and format of the ISTEP program, including the following:
 - (A) The graduation examination.
 - (B) The passing scores required at the various grade levels tested under the ISTEP program.

As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.3.

Based on the statutory language, the Attorney General indicated that the State Board may adopt or reject Roundtable recommendations but may not amend the recommendations.

The attached information provides background for the Biology I standard setting process including:

- An overview of the “Bookmark” process,
- The results of the content committee’s work,
- The “expert” panel review of our process and,
- The Department’s recommended passing scores,
- The Roundtable’s resolution on Biology I Passing Scores, and
- The recommended Biology passing rates compared with grade 5 and 7 ISTEP+ science performance.

Recommendation- Adoption of the Biology I passing scores as recommended by Indiana’s Education Roundtable at their September 20, 2007 meeting.